ARTICLES

COLLECTED

Out of the Rubrick of the Book of Common-Prayer, and other Ecclesiastical Laws now in force.

For the help and assistance of the Church-Wardens and Side-men (with the Assistance of their Ministers) of every Parish within the

ARCH-DEACONRY

OF

NORWICH.

IN

The VISITATION of the Reverend *John Reynolds* M. A. Arch-Deacon of the Arch-Deaconry of *Norwich*.

In the Year of our Lord God 1673.

Owen Hughes Dr. of Laws, Official.

London, Printed for *William Crook* at the Green-Dragon without *Temple-Barr*, 1673.

B. 854

The Form of the Oath.

YOu ſhall ſwear, that you will well and truly execut the Office of Church-warden, to which you are lawfully Elected within your Pariſh for this preſent year, in all things agreeable to a good Conſcience, and as far as by Law you are bound.

So help you God, by the Contents of his holy Goſpel.

The Sidemens Oath.

YOu ſhall ſwear that you will well and truly execute the Office of Side-man or Queſt-man within your Pariſh, that is to ſay, you ſhall aſſiſt the Church-Wardens for this year in Inquiry and Preſentment of all Offenders and Offences againſt His Majeſties Laws Eccleſiaſtical, in all things agreeable to a good Conſcience, and as far as by Law you are bound.

ARTICLES

OF

VISITATION and ENQUIRY

Within the Arch-Deaconry of

NORWICH.

TIT. I.

Concerning Churches, Chappels, with the Ornaments and Furniture thereunto belonging.

IS your Parish Church or Chappel in good and sufficient repair both for the Roof, Windows, Floor and Seats?

2. Hath any part of your Church, Chappel or Steeple been demolished, or pulled down? what part, and how long since? or any of the Lead, Timber or Bells thereunto formerly belonging, any way imbezzled or sold, and by whom?

3. Is there a decent Font of Stone with a cover, and both the same stand at or near the neather end of your Church, in such man-

ner as anciently & usually Fonts have stood for the baptizing of children? Is there a decent Communion-table in your Chancel, with a decent Carpet, and another decent linnen, to be spread thereon at the time of the Administration of the Lords Supper? & have you a seemly Chalice or Communion cup, with a cover, and one or more Flagons?

4. Have you a convenient Seat or Pew with reading Desk and Divine Service, a Pulpit with a decent cloth or cushion, a large bible of the last translation, and a book of Common-prayer lately published, Anno 1662. the book of Homilies set forth by authority, and a printed table of the degrees within which marriages are prohibited, and a book of Canons and Constitutions Ecclesiastical, and a decent Surplice and Hood for the Minister to Officiate in, and are the ten Commandements set up on the East end of your Church or Chappel, and are the Kings Arms set up in some fitting place of your Church or Chancel?

5. Have you a Register book in parchment of Christnings, Burials and Marriages? and is the same kept in all points according to the ancient use?

6. Have you a book for the Church wardens accounts? as also a chest with 3 locks and keys, wherein to keep the said Books together with the other books and vestments and utensils of your Church.

TIT. II.

Concerning the Church-Yard, the Houses, Glebes and Tythes belonging to the Church.

1. Is your Church-yard sufficiently fenced, and decently kept? Hath any person encroached upon the same, or made any door into it, and how long since?

2. Is the House of your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, and the Outhouses in good repair, have any of them been defaced or pulled down without license, have there been any encroachments made upon the same

same, or any of the ancient marks or bounds removed or changed? and by whom?

3. Have you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Glebe-Lands, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements or Cottages belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage? As also a note of such Pensions, Rate-tithes and Portions of Tythes, or other yearly profits (either within or without your Parish) as belong thereunto? Have any of the same been withheld from your Minister? and by whom, as you know, or have heard.

TIT. III.

Concerning Ministers.

1. Is your Minister a Priest or Deacon Episcopally ordained, according to the Laws of the Church of England? and hath he been legally instituted and inducted into his Benefice?

2. Is he resident among you? how many weeks hath he been absent from you without urgent necessity?

3. Doth your Parson, Vicar, Curate or Lecturer, if you have any perform his Office in all things according to the Rubrick of the Book of Common prayer lately established, and the Act of Uniformity published therewith?

4. Doth he observe the holy-daies and Fasting-daies, the Ember-weeks, and the yearly Perambulation in Rogation week, as is appointed by the Rubrick? particularly the 5. of Novemb. the 30. of Jan. and 29. of May.

5. Doth he neglect or delay to visit the sick, or to Baptize any Infant that is in danger of death? Doth he baptize any without Godfathers and Godmothers or admit either of the Parents to be Godfather or Godmother to their own Children?

6. Hath your Minister married any person without publishing the Banes on three Sundays or Holy days without license first obtained, or hath he married any in private Houses, or not between the hours of Eight and Twelve in the morning?

7. Doth your Minister Catechise the Youth and ignorant Persons

sons of his Parish, according to the Canon in that behalf? and if not the whole default is the same not done?

8 Is your Parson Vicar, Curate or Lecturer, a man of a sober life and conversation? or is his carriage in any kind disorderly or scandalous, and unbeseeming a Minister, and wherein doth he so misdemean himself?

TIT. IV.

Concerning the Parishioners.

1. Is there any in your Parish that refuse to come unto the public Assemblies, Prayers or Service of the Church? If there be any, what are their names?

2. Is there any person in your Parish, that lyeth under a common fame or suspicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Incest? Are there any common Drunkards within your Parish, or common Swearers, or Blasphemers of Gods name, or any that are noted to be Raylers, unclean or filthy talkers or sowers of sedition, faction and discord amongst their neighbours?

3. Doth every person in your Parish duly resort to your Church or Chappel upon Sundays and holy-days, & there decently and orderly, as well during Divine Service, as Preaching the Word of God, demean themselves reverently, uncovering their heads, kneeling at Prayers, standing up when the Creed and Gospel are read?

4. Is there any in your Parish that refuse to send their Infant-children to be baptized in the Church, unless in case of urgent danger? or do they send them to be baptized in other Parishes? or are they baptized after other form than is appointed? or are they kept unbaptized longer than is allowed? or is there any Infants or more aged persons as yet unbaptized?

5. Is there any person in your Parish of 16 years of age who doth not receive the Sacrament three times in the year, of which Easter is always to be one? Doth any refuse to receive it kneeling?

6. Are there any in your Parish that be denounced and declared excom-

excommunicate for any crime committed, how long have they been so excommunicated?

7. Are there any living in your Parish who have been unlawfully married, viz. without publication of Banns, or License first obtained, or within the degrees prohibited.

8. Are there any married women in your Parish who after their delivery from the peril of Child-birth, refuse or neglect to make their publick thanksgiving to God in the Church at times convenient for the same, and who by name?

9. Are there any that refuse to pay their duty for Easter offerings, or refuse to contribute to the Rates made for the repair of your Church or Chappel, or any thing thereunto belonging?

10. Do any refuse to bury their dead according to the Rites of the Church of England? and are there any Wills and Testaments of persons dead in your Parish that be yet unproved, or any Goods administred without a due grant from the Ordinary? did any dying in your Parish, or elsewhere, leave any Legacy to your Church or Chappel, or to the use of the poor, or to any other pious and charitable purposes? What were those Legacies, and how have they been bestowed?

11. Are there any in your Parish guilty of Antenuptial Fornication? That is, which have used carnal copulation together before lawful marriage and who are they;

12. Is there any strife and contention among any of your Parish for their Pews or Seats in your Church? have any new Pews been erected in your Chancel, or in the body of your Church or Chappel, without leave from the Ordinary.

TIT. V.

Concerning Parish Clerks and Sextons.

1. HAve you belonging to your Church or Chappel a Parish-clark, aged 21 years at the least? is he of honest life and conversation

versation? and sufficient or able to perform his duty in reading, writing and singing? Is he chosen by your Minister, and doth he duly attend him in all Divine Services at the Church? Are his wages duly paid unto him, or who withholdeth the same from him?

2. Doth he diligently do his duty in keeping the Church clean & decent, in tolling and ringing the Bells before Divine Service, and when any person is passing out of this life, doth he upon notice toll a Bell, that the neighbours may thereby be warned to recommend the dying person to the grace and favour of God?

TIT. VI.

Concerning Churchwardens and Side men.

1. ARe the Church-wardens of your Parish yearly and duly chosen by the joynt consent of your Minister and Parishoners, or one of them by your Minister, and the other by the Parishioners?

2. Have the former and last Church-wardens given up their accounts to the Parish, and delivered up to the succeeding Churchwardens the moneys remaining in their hands, together with all other things belonging to your Church or Chappel?

3. You are further to understand, that according to your Office, you are to provide against every Communion appointed in your Church or Chappel, a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and of good Wine, according to the number of Communicants.

FINIS.